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## **Draft Third Progress Report**

of the IPA Project

"Support to implementing anti-corruption strategies in Bosnia and Herzegovina"  
for the period August 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 – November 14<sup>th</sup> 2019

This Inception Report is a document intended for internal use in the IPA project "Support to implementing anti-corruption strategies in Bosnia and Herzegovina" (EuropeAid/139068/DH/SER/BA).

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**Abbreviations:**

<b>AC</b>	Anticorruption
<b>ACS</b>	Anticorruption Strategy
<b>AP</b>	Action Plan
<b>ACB</b>	Anticorruption bodies (at the level of entities, BD BiH and cantons)
<b>APIK</b>	Agency for prevention of corruption and coordination of the fight against corruption
<b>BD BiH</b>	Brčko District BiH
<b>BiH</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUD</b>	Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>FBiH</b>	Federation of BiH
<b>NKE</b>	Non-key experts
<b>IE</b>	Incidental expenditures
<b>IP</b>	Inception Phase
<b>IPAK</b>	Institucionalna podrška antikorupciji (Institutional Support to Anti-Corruption)
<b>IR</b>	Inception Report
<b>IPA</b>	EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
<b>JNKE</b>	Junior non-key expert
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>PT</b>	Project Team
<b>PSC</b>	Project Steering Committee
<b>RS</b>	Republika Srpska
<b>SNKE</b>	Senior non-key expert
<b>TL</b>	Team Leader
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>TO</b>	Technical Offer





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### Summary of the Project

This is the Third Progress Report for the period August 15<sup>th</sup> – November 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 of the two-year IPAK Project "Support to the Implementation of Anti-Corruption Strategies in Bosnia and Herzegovina" (BiH) which is funded by the European Union from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). Value of the Project is 658.250 EUR and it is implemented by Consortium led by European Consulting Group LLC (RS), consisting of Bureau for Institutional Reform and Democracy – BiRD GmbH (DE), INCOM Business Consultants Ltd. (GR), Ecorys Netherland B.V. (NL), DCS d.o.o. (BA).

The Project provides assistance to anticorruption bodies and institutions at all levels of government in BiH to raise the fight against corruption in the country at a higher and more engaged level.

According to the Terms of References (ToR) of the Project, which is attached to this IR as Annex 1, main beneficiaries of the Project are 14 anticorruption bodies at all levels in BiH, State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), Public Administration Reform Coordinators Office of BiH, Audit office of the institutions of BiH, Commission of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly for monitoring of work of APIK, Commission on Conflict of Interest of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly, as well civil society organisations active in preventing and fighting corruption, media and media organisation active in investigating and informing the public about corruption cases and companies and business associations at the level of entities, Brčko district and cantonal level.

Through the three components, the project provides assistance at all levels of government to:

- Improve implementation of their anti-corruption strategies (ACS) and action plans (AP)
- Improve monitoring of implementation of anti-corruption strategies and action plans
- More efficiently curb corruption in institutions that are particularly prone to corruption
- Improve existing anti-corruption strategies and accompanying action plans
- Improve and harmonize anti-corruption legislation in the country
- Give recommendations for preparation of BiH ACS and AP plan for the period 2020-2024
- Increase the level of transparency and ethics in the work and conduct of public institutions
- Improve the system for receiving and acting upon the citizens' reports for corruption
- Harmonize the activities of non-governmental organizations in the fight against corruption
- Improve the preparation and implementation of integrity plans in public institutions





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- Improve the system for implementation of integrity plans and prevention of conflicts of interest
- More actively involve the private sector and business associations in the fight against corruption
- Encourage and enhance communication of anti-corruption institutions with media and public
- Increase citizens' understanding impact of corruption and readiness for reporting of corruption
- Establishment traditional, annual award for "Contribution to the fight against corruption".

### Project background

BiH has a status of potential candidate for EU membership with serious set of obligations for reforms required to advance in the EU accession process, where design and implementation of anticorruption policies is an important criterion. The reasons for insufficient results in prevention and fight against corruption in the country are various and include obstacles imposed from the complex administrative structure of the country, lack of political will of political elites, as well as insufficient pressure from general public, civil society, media and business sector for positive changes.

The fragmented and complex governance system, split between different administrative units - 143 municipalities, two entities, one separate district, and, in the case of Federation of BiH - ten cantons, as well as federal state structures influences negatively coordinated prevention and fight against corruption and produces evident lack of responsibility, transparency and accountability at all levels of government.

But, despite all obstacles, one can say that BiH has all prerequisites for serious and more tangible anticorruption results, since the legislation is in place, APIK is staffed and budgeted up to the level to deliver concrete work, majority of the citizens demands improvement of rule of law and the CSOs are willing to contribute in that process. The only remaining component is creation of serious political will and its transfer to the institutions mandated to prevent and combat corruption, for the start of needed improvement of the rule of law in the country.

### Current anticorruption situation in BiH

Current anticorruption situation in BiH can't be detached from the overall political situation in the country with some of the administrative levels without established government (including formal establishment of the Council of Ministers of BiH), which influences decisive





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political will for fight against corruption. On the other side, there is increasing and determined encouragements from international community as well as increasing public demand and pressure for advanced and more tangible results in the prevention and the fight against corruption.

This situation influences the process of preparation of the BiH ACS and AP 2020-2024, which will be of a crucial importance for the preparation of new ACSs and APs on other levels (except RS, where they are recently adopted) and the overall prevention and fight against corruption in the whole country in the next five years. In addition to the complex political situation that influences political will needed as a signal and fostering to the ACBs to engage in more tangible activities against corruption, the situation with the system for prevention and fight against corruption in the country is far from needed for such demanding engagement. ACBs were established at all levels of government and most of them are functional except in the Canton 10 (due to the expired mandate) and to certain extent in BD BiH where professionalized body is expected to replace existing *commission type* of body.

Except APIK, Office for the fight against of corruption and management of quality of Canton of Sarajevo and, to certain extend Anti-Corruption Team of Zenica-Doboj Canton and ongoing process in this scope in BD BiH, all other ACBs are not professional units or bodies, but of a “commission type”. That format of ACBs significantly negative influences their work and results because members of the bodies performs the work in the ACBs is additional obligation to the regular job and the enthusiasm and varies from body to body and from person to person. In most of the cases competencies of the ACBs are weakly defined in the acts for their establishment, mostly consisting of monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs, while the procedures for work of the ACBs are rare and if there are documents in that scope, they are quite general and regulates the way of conducting the meetings.

Average frequency of the meetings of the ACBs, in general, is rare with poor administrative support (usually one part-time person from the institution of the head of the body), functioning within the office of the head of the ACB. Most of the ACBs do not have budget for their functioning, relying on the resources either of the government at that level or institution of the head of the body, so efficiency and commitment for work of the ACBs mostly depends on the enthusiasm of the head of the body.

All levels of government have its own ACS and /or APs (in the cases when there is no ACS in place there is AP for that level of government (most of them linked to the BiH ACS and AP). ACBs have significant difference in the capacities, structure, competencies, support from their governments and parliaments as well as, to certain extend - commitment to work on prevention and fight against corruption.





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This unfavourable situation is clearly identified both by APIK and the Project Team and will be addressed in the preparation of the BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 as well as appropriate initiative of APIK towards the professionalization of the ACBs and assurance of adequate resources and independency of the ACBs.

### **Planned activities for the reporting period**

Based on activities stipulated in the ToR and TO, as well as on the inputs from the stakeholders during the Inception Phase (IP), the Project Team (PT) defined a detailed timetable of activities for the whole duration of the Project as well as the indicative timing of the events to be organized within the Project. In the implementation of planned activities in the reporting period, the PT was working according to the planned timetable, with high level of flexibility (to meet the needs of the beneficiaries), committing most of time and resources on following activities:

#### Activity 1.1. Improvement of implementation of ACSs and APs and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs at all levels in BiH

- Task 1.1.3. Creation of recommendations for timely and punctual implementation of ACSs and APs at all levels and establishment of ACBs
- Task 1.1.4. Creation of recommendations for enhanced chain of interactions and responsibilities among ACBs at all levels
- Task 1.1.5. TNA for improved implementation of ACSs and APs and coordination of ACBs at all levels

#### Activity 1.2. Improvement of the fight against corruption in institutions particularly prone to corruption

- Task 1.2.1. Identification of public services particularly prone to corruption and countermeasures for prevention of corruption
- Task 1.2.2. Reviewing of completeness and quality of prevention measures in the public services particularly prone to corruption

#### Activity 1.3. Strengthening capacities for accurate and efficient monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs at all levels

- Task 1.3.3. Identification of obstacles for accurate and efficient monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs
- Task 1.3.4. Recommendations for improvement and overcoming obstacles in accurate and efficient monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs
- Task 1.3.5. TNA for trainings for improvement of accurate and efficient monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs





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### Activity 1.5. Delivery of trainings for implementation of ACSs and APs and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs at all levels

- Task 1.5.1. Training curriculums for trainings on implementation of ACSs and APs and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs
- Task 1.5.3. Delivery of trainings for implementation of ACSs and APs and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs

### Activity 1.7 Support to establishment of anticorruption network in institutions and citizens reporting system at all levels

- Task 1.7.1 Assessment of status of anticorruption network and citizens reporting system at all levels

### Activity 1.8 Consolidation, harmonization and streamlining of anticorruption legal framework at all levels

- Task 1.8.1 Identification of international standards that anticorruption legal framework at all levels has to comply with

### Activity 3.3. Delivery of trainings for communication on integrity, anticorruption, interaction with the media and awareness raising

- Task 3.3.1. Training curriculums and materials on integrity, anticorruption, awareness raising and interaction with the media
- Task 3.3.2. Delivery of training of trainers on communication on integrity, anticorruption, awareness raising and interaction with the media
- Task 3.3.3. Preparation of manuals for civil servants for communication on integrity, AC and awareness raising based on training modules

### Activity 3.5 Preparation and launch awareness-raising campaign targeting citizens to counter corruption and establishment of AC "Good Practice Award"

- Task 3.5.2 Design of criteria and procedures for "Good Practice Award" for promotion of best AC practices
- Task 3.5.4. Support to organization of the first "Good Practice Award" for promotion of AC practices

Beside these planned activities, the PT invested some time and efforts on fine-tuning and increasing the number of activities of the Project, in order to meet the needs of the beneficiaries of the Project, which was done in close cooperation with the EUD and APIK. Namely, merging of some activities and trainings as described in the Inception Report (IR), has left some space and resources for improved implementation of existing or introducing of additional activities. These adjustments resulted with the possibility for the PT to make some



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**extra efforts** in the reporting period **for work on the following additional activities which are not envisaged by the ToR:**

Upgraded Activity 1.4. Assistance to APIK in the preparation of BiH ACSs and AP 2020 – 2024 and organisation of the workshops of the Working Group for their preparation

- Assistance to APIK in preparation of draft versions of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 and participation at the first workshop of Working group in Banja Luka, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>
- Assistance to APIK in preparation of draft versions of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 and participation at second workshop of Working group in Konjic, September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>
- Assistance to APIK in preparation of draft versions of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 and participation at third workshop of Working group in Zenica, October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>
- Assistance to APIK in preparation of draft versions of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 and organisation of fourth workshop of the Working group at Vlašić, October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>
- Assistance to APIK in preparation of draft versions of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 and organisation of fifth workshop of the Working group on Jahorina, November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>
- Preparation of document that APIK will issue for improvement of capacities and position and professionalization of ACBs on the basis of Standards from the June 13<sup>th</sup> Conference

Activity 1.6. Facilitation of coordination and synergy of CSOs activities in the fight against corruption

*Additional activity from the Inception Report:* Training of ACB for improved cooperation with civil society organisations

Most of the activities were implemented fully, while some of them are pending because of the following basic reasons:

- Half a month of the reporting period was in the season of summer holiday and it was not feasible to organise training, workshops or round tables because it is not possible to get all of the participants during the holidays or right after them
- Significant amount of time and efforts were invested in preparation of versions of drafts of the BiH ACS and AP 2020-2024 and participation and/or organisation of seven workshops of the Working group for their preparation.

### Completed activities in the reporting period

As envisaged in the IR and Second Progress report for period May 15<sup>th</sup> – August 14<sup>th</sup> 2019, the work of the PT in this reporting period was dedicated to parallel work on activities 1.1., 1.2.,







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1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6., 1.7., 1.8., 3.1., 3.2. and 3.3, and, in the reporting period, Activities 1.1, 1.3., 1.5., 1.6 were completed fully.

In more details, in this reporting period, the PT completed the following activities:

### Activity 1.1. Improvement of implementation of ACSs and APs and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs at all levels in BiH

The PT has identified possibilities for improvement of timely and punctual implementation of ACSs and APs at all levels and levels of government in BiH where ACBs are not established or not functional and created Recommendations for enhanced chain of interactions and responsibilities among ACBs at all levels. On that basis, the PT has proposed and assisted in the preparation of a document from APIK that will initiate increased capacities, improved position and independence and professionalization of the ACBs at all levels, on the basis of the Standards for the ACBs agreed on the Conference of the Project held on June 13<sup>th</sup>. On the basis of the analysis of the capacities and challenges for improved implementation and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs at all levels, the PT has prepared a TNA in this scope as a ground for preparation of a Curriculum for training in these scopes.

### Activity 1.2. Improvement of the fight against corruption in institutions particularly prone to corruption

As a start in the implementation of this Activity, the PT identified the institutions particularly prone to corruption, prepared a plan for implementation and has started reviewing the completeness and quality of prevention measures in the public services particularly prone to corruption. Based on that, the PT prepared detailed Terms of References for engagement of short term experts for work on the implementation of this activity and started with the identification of appropriate Senior and Junior short term experts for work on this Activity.

### Activity 1.3. Strengthening capacities for accurate and efficient monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs at all levels

Within this Activity, the PT has identified major obstacles for accurate and efficient monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs as a base for creation of recommendations and preparation of TNA in this scope. TNA for trainings for improvement of accurate and efficient monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs was prepared as a ground for Curriculum for training for improvement of accurate and efficient monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs at all levels.

### Activity 1.5. Delivery of trainings for implementation of ACSs and APs and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs at all levels





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Based on the previous activities, the PT has prepared a Curriculum for joined training on improvement of implementation of ACSs and APs and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs. The training on improved implementation of ACSs and APs and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs was organised for the representatives of ACBs from all levels in BiH along with the Fourth workshop of the Working group at Vlašić, October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.



Training on improved implementation and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs, Vlašić, October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>

### Activity 1.7 Support to establishment of anticorruption network in institutions and citizens reporting system at all levels

As a start in the implementation of this Activity, the PT has identified status of anticorruption network in institutions and mechanisms for citizens reporting system at all levels and prepared a plan for implementation of this activity. Based on that, the PT has prepared detailed Terms of References for engagement of short term experts for work on this Activity and started with the identification of appropriate Senior and Junior short term experts to work on this Activity.

### Activity 1.8 Consolidation, harmonization and streamlining of anticorruption legal framework at all levels

As a start in the implementation of this Activity, the PT has identified international standards that anticorruption legal framework at all levels in BiH has to comply with, as well as the list of laws with anticorruption provisions that will be included in consolidation, harmonization





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and streamlining. Based on that, the PT has prepared detailed Terms of References for engagement of short term experts for work on this Activity and started with the identification of appropriate Senior and Junior short term experts to work on this Activity.

Activity 3.3. Delivery of trainings for communication on integrity, anticorruption, interaction with the media and awareness raising

In the reporting period, the PT has prepared training curriculum for the training on integrity, anticorruption, awareness raising and interaction with the media for the training in this scope that was organised for the representatives of ACBs from all levels in BiH, delivered in Sarajevo, September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

The training addressed practical issues related to media relations and the presentation of ACBs in the public, through expert presentations, interaction of participants and practical work in the final session. The training enabled the participants to acquire knowledge for their own performance but also to enable them to transfer the acquired knowledge and skills to other ACB members. Participants were trained on the following issues:

- Who communicates on behalf of the ACB and what that person needs to know
- What are the pitfalls when an AC expert communicates on behalf of ACB
- What is actually that ACBs do and what is attractive to the media
- How to make our topic interesting for journalists
- Presentation to the public of ACB's regular activities
- Are there anti-corruption issues outside the jurisdiction of the ACB
- What and when the media expect from ACBs and in what form
- Writing press releases
- Communication with the press
- Interview
- Press conference
- Social media.

Input from the training will be used for preparation of manuals for civil servants for communication on integrity, AC and awareness raising based on training modules in the next period of implementation of the Project.



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Training on communication on awareness raising and interaction with the media, Sarajevo, September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

### Activity 3.5 Preparation and launch awareness-raising campaign targeting citizens to counter corruption and establishment of AC “Good Practice Award”

Task 3.5.2. Design of criteria and procedures for “Good Practice Award” for promotion of good AC practices

The Project Team have analysed criteria and procedures for similar awards and prepared draft criteria and procedures for the selection of the nominees for the “Good Practice Award”. In close cooperation with APIK, Working Group (WG) for preparation of criteria and procedures for selection of “*Good Practice Award*” was established, consisting from representatives of APIK, ACT FBiH, ACC RS, prominent CSOs and journalists.

The WG assessed the draft proposals of the Project team on the concept, procedures and criteria and decided on the following issues through e-mail and phone communication as a preparation of the workshop of the WG their fine tuning and adoption at which the following issues were discussed:

- introduction of anti-corruption recognition with the aim of promoting good practices, so that good examples, especially from small communities, reach the general public, as well as further dissemination of good practices through acting within the competencies and capabilities of the bodies, organizations and associations establishing the recognition



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- agreement on form - proposal to sign a memorandum of cooperation on corruption promotion by which the signatories declare their readiness to establish recognition
- consideration of the need to extend the circle of signatories to those invited to the first WG meeting
- consideration of the way of formation and composition of the commission that will announce the competition, determine the criteria and decide on the winners - the question of formulating the criteria
- logistical issues - IPAK project opportunities in the first year, role of the EUD, talk about the logistics carrier in the coming years
- name of the acknowledgment
- agreement on further steps.



Workshop on criteria and procedures for “Good Practice Award” for promotion of good AC practices, Sarajevo, August 30<sup>th</sup>

At the workshop, the WG agreed on and adopted concept, procedures and criteria for the “Good practice Award” and after approximately two months, one by one, the four relevant CSOs with different type of excuses without official explanation decided to leave the Commission for the award.

Because of that, this Activity is still pending, while the Project Team and the Delegation of the EU to BiH are looking for the possible modification of the activity in order to ensure that it will be implemented in near future.





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### Upgraded Activity 1.4. Assistance to APIK in the preparation of BiH ACSs and AP 2020 – 2024 and organisation of the workshops of the Working Group for their preparation

During the reporting period, the most time, efforts and resource consuming activity was assistance to APIK in the preparation of respective draft versions of the BiH ACS and AP for the workshops of the Working Group for their preparation, organisation of two workshops of the Working Group for their preparation and participation at five workshops of the Working Group. In this period, the PT implemented the following activities in this scope:

- Assistance to APIK in preparation of draft versions of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 and participation at the first workshop of Working group in Banja Luka, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>
- Assistance to APIK in preparation of draft versions of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 and participation at second workshop of Working group in Konjic, September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>
- Assistance to APIK in preparation of draft versions of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 and participation at third workshop of Working group in Zenica, October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>
- Assistance to APIK in preparation of draft versions of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 and organisation of fourth workshop of the Working group at Vlašić, October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>
- Assistance to APIK in preparation of draft versions of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 and organisation of fifth workshop of the Working group on Jahorina, November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>





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Workshop of the Working group for the preparation of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024, Banja Luka, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>



Workshop of the Working group for the preparation of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024, Vlačić, October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>



Workshop of the Working group for the preparation of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024, Jahorina, November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>





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- Preparation of document that APIK will issue for improvement of capacities and position and professionalization of ACBs on the basis of Standards from the June 13<sup>th</sup> Conference

The Project Team has assisted APIK in the preparation of the document (title of that document is still not defined) that will initiate improvement of capacities and position of the ACBs at all levels in BiH, as well as their professionalization. The document is developed on the Standards for the ACBs agreed on the Conference of the project held in the Parliamentarian Assembly in Sarajevo, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 and is in the final stage of the preparation in cooperation between APIK and the Delegation of EU in Sarajevo. It is expected that the initiation of the procedure for improvement of capacities of ACBs and their professionalization will be announced at the Conference that the Project will organize in cooperation with APIK at December 9<sup>th</sup> in the Parliamentarian Assembly in Sarajevo.

- Preparation of the high level International Anticorruption day Conference in the Parliamentarian Assembly in Sarajevo on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Project Team, in coordination with the Delegation of EU to BiH, has decided to upgrade the Conference from the Activity 3.5. (Intended for promotion “Good anticorruption practices” into a central event in BiH for the International anti-corruption day, to include all important elements for more fight against corruption and to increase the visibility of EU support in this scope to BiH. The Conference is expected to strengthen public support for the fight against corruption at all levels in BiH, because the public support and pressure for more engaged prevention and fight against corruption is of crucial importance for tangible results in this scope, but it is still insufficient in the country. Publicly expressed will of high level domestic officials and support from high level international representatives at the Conference with high media coverage is expected to significantly improve readiness of citizens to engage and support the prevention and fight against corruption at all levels in BiH.

The Project Team, in close cooperation with APIK has started preparation of the Conference, at which following issues will be presented and discussed:

- Presentation of the new BiH AC Strategy and Action plan 2020-2024
- Initiation of improved capacities, position and professionalization of the ACBs
- Announcement of establishment of the Reward for Good anticorruption practices.

Upgraded Activity 1.6. Facilitation of coordination and synergy of CSOs activities in the fight against corruption







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*Additional activity from the Inception Report:* Training of ACB for improved cooperation with civil society organisations

Training was organized as two-day event, in an interactive way, to provide possibility for questions and familiarization of the participants with the details of the skills transferred to them, for networking among the domestic anticorruption bodies. At the training which was held at Hotel "Termag" on Jahorina on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>st</sup>, before the Fifth workshop of the Working Group for the preparation of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 the participants were trained in the following aspects of the cooperation of ACBs with the CSOs – how to:

- Identify the need for assistance in the work of anticorruption bodies
- Identify the CSOs that might be helpful in the work of anticorruption bodies
- Establish a cooperation between anticorruption bodies and CSOs
- Regulation of relations in cooperation between anticorruption bodies and CSOs
- Implementation of cooperation between anticorruption bodies and CSOs
- Ensuring mutual respect and usefulness in cooperation between the ACBs and CSOs
- Ensuring efficient and smooth cooperation between ACBs and CSOs
- Overcoming obstacles and challenges in cooperation between ACBs and CSOs.

Main outcome from the training is increased knowledge and skills of the representatives of ACBs from all levels in BiH for identification of the need for assistance in the work of ACBs and identification of CSOs for that purpose, establishment, regulation and implementation of such a cooperation, as well as overcoming possible obstacles in the cooperation.

On the basis of the input from the participants of the training and the Curriculum for the training, Manual for cooperation between ACBs and CSOs will be prepared and delivered to all ACBs at all levels in BiH.



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Training of ACB for improved cooperation with civil society organisations, Jahorina, November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

- Crosscutting issues and participation in the visibility activities of the Project

At the very beginning of this Reporting Period, September 11<sup>th</sup> 2019, the Third Project Steering Committee of the Project was organised in the premises of the Delegation of the EU to BiH in Sarajevo.



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Third Project Steering Committee, premises of the Delegation of the EU to BiH in Sarajevo, September 11<sup>th</sup> 2019

The Project Team was also engaged in the preparation in the visibility event of seven IPA Rule of Law projects at the Deloitte Antifraud week in BiH, which will be held in the Delegation of the EU to BiH in Sarajevo, November 21<sup>st</sup> 2019. Also, the Project Team was engaged in the preparation of the panel on frauds in the public procurement Deloitte Antifraud week in BiH, which will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> 2019.

### **Pending Activities**

#### Activity 1.2. Improvement of the fight against corruption in institutions particularly prone to corruption

- Task 1.2.2. Reviewing of completeness and quality of prevention measures in the public services particularly prone to corruption
- Task 1.2.3. Reviewing of implementation status of prevention measures in public services particularly prone to corruption

#### Upgraded Activity 1.4. Assistance to APIK in the preparation of BiH ACSs and AP 2020 – 2024 and organisation of the workshops of the Working Group for their preparation

- Assistance to APIK in preparation of draft versions of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 and organisation of seventh workshop of Working group in Sarajevo, November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>





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Activity 1.7 Support to establishment of anticorruption network in institutions and citizens reporting system at all levels

- Task 1.7.1 Assessment of status of anticorruption network and citizens reporting system at all levels

Activity 1.8 Consolidation, harmonization and streamlining of anticorruption legal framework at all levels

- Task 1.8.2 Assessment of anticorruption legal framework at all levels that is critical to personal and institutional integrity

Activity 3.5 Preparation and launch awareness-raising campaign targeting citizens to counter corruption and establishment of AC “Good Practice Award”

- Task 3.5.2 Design of criteria and procedures for “Good Practice Award” for promotion of best AC practices
- Task 3.5.4. Support upgraded International anticorruption day Conference in Parliamentarian Assembly in Sarajevo on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2019

### **Planned activities for the next reporting period**

In the next reporting period, the PT will work on the following Activities of the Project:

Activity 1.2 Improvement of the fight against corruption in institutions particularly prone to corruption

- Task 1.2.2 Reviewing of completeness and quality of prevention measures regarding this public services

Preventive measures identified in the Task 1.2.1 will be analysed both regarding their completeness and quality against the relevant international standards, anti-corruption documents and, particularly regarding the recommendations from EU and GRECO.

The PT will prepare a set of documents, measures and standards that ought to be in place for the public services particularly prone to corruption based on international documents (Conventions of UN, EU, OECD, CoE) and best practices in the transitional countries. That set will be used as a tool and check list in reviewing of completeness and quality of the prevention measures in public services in BiH particularly prone to corruption and a base for preparation of a questionnaire for that review.

Preparation of this set, check list and questionnaire as well as the conduct of the review will be done in cooperation and with the assistance of the ACBs and ACIs from all level of government in the country, in order to provide them with skills for future work in this scope.



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- Task 1.2.3 Reviewing of implementation status of prevention measures regarding this public services

Based on the comprehensive lists from Task 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 the PT will assist ACBs from all level to review the implementation status of preventive measures as a part of implementation of ACSs and APs. In this review, in addition to the quantity and quality of implemented prevention measures, equal attention will be paid to the institutional capacities in the ACBs, ACIs and public services to implement prevention measures as a prerequisite for success in this scope, using assessment done in Task 1.1.2 and findings from implementation of the check list from Task 1.2.3.

In order to do so, the PT will support ACBs at all levels in the analysis of all last reports regarding the implementation of preventive measures from the public services particularly prone to corruption sent to ACBs at respective level regarding the quantity of implemented measures.

### Upgraded Activity 1.4. Assistance to APIK in the preparation of BiH ACSs and AP 2020 – 2024 and organisation of the workshops of the Working Group for their preparation

- Participation at the sixth workshop for the preparation of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 organised by Foreign trade chamber of BiH in Sarajevo, November 20<sup>th</sup>

APIK and Foreign trade chamber of BiH will jointly organise sixth workshop for the preparation of the BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 in Sarajevo, November 20<sup>th</sup> at which the Project Team is invited and will participate. At the workshop, aspects for more engaged inclusion of the business sector in the fight against corruption will be discussed and the Project Team, beside gathering ideas and proposal for the BiH ACS and AP, will establish a contacts needed for implementation of the Activity 2.4 Development of integrated standards to mitigate risk of corruption originating from private sector.

- Assistance to APIK in preparation of draft versions of BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 and organisation of seventh workshop of Working group in Sarajevo, November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

The Project Team will continue to deliver technical assistance to APIK in the preparation BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 as before, giving advises to the team in APIK which is in charge of its preparation. Assistance will be delivered both in giving opinions and suggestions for improvement of the drafts of the BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 by direct participation on the sessions for preparation of the drafts in the APIK.

In addition, the Project Team will organise the last, seventh workshop of the WG for the preparation of the BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 which will be held November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in Sarajevo. As before, the Project Team will actively participate at the workshop by giving





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opinions and suggestions for improvement of the drafts of the BiH ACS and AP 2020 – 2024 and follow the discussions and proposals of the WG in order to be able to improve quality of given advises in drafting the ACS and AP.

Also, the Project Team will proceed in assisting APIK in the preparation of the final version of the document that will initiate improvement of capacities and position of the ACBs at all levels in BiH, as well as their professionalization. The document is developed on the Standards for the ACBs agreed on the Conference of the Project held in the Parliamentary Assembly in Sarajevo, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 and is in the final stage of preparation.

- Task 1.5.4 Assistance to ACBs at all level for implementation of ACSs and APs and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs

On the basis of the recommendations from the feedback from the participants at the trainings from Task 1.5.3, the Project Team will in close cooperation with ACBs at all levels in BiH will prepare a Plan for support further improvement of implementation and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs at all levels, which will be defined the activities, participants in them and their roles, timing and the way of their implementation.

That will be done by delivery of on-the-job, direct assistance in the situation when that is needed and possible or via distanced assistance, delivered over phone or e-mail and monitoring of the implementation of the Plan. The Project Team will keep a record of delivered assistance and will send advises given to one or more ACBs to all other included in the implementation of the Plan, in order to spread the solutions for further improvement of implementation and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs.

Activity 1.7 Support to establishment of anticorruption network in institutions and citizens reporting system at all levels

- Task 1.7.1 Assessment of status of anticorruption network and citizens reporting system at all levels

As said before, establishment of anticorruption network of focal points for ACBs and ACIs as well as for the citizens in incomplete and on-going process in BiH and in order to support this very important element of the prevention and the fight against corruption, the Project Team will assess its current status. That will be done in close cooperation with the ACBs from all levels in BiH by identifying all public institutions and services at all levels (including the local one) that have obligations from ACSs and APs as well as the ones, which already have a focal point.





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A product of this activity will be current list of existing focal points in all institutions at all levels in BiH, which will be prepared and updated in cooperation and coordination with all ABCs at all levels during the whole duration of this Project. After the end of this Project the update of the list will continued by the ACBs which will gain the experience in establishment of the focal points and cooperation with them as a result of the activities in this scope, increasing the sustainability oh the results of the Project.

- Task 1.7.2 Recommendations for establishment, competencies and work of AC network in the institutions

Establishment of the focal points in the frame of citizens reporting system, existing of focal points is not enough for its proper functioning without defining the competencies, obligations and procedures for their work, especially without proper expertise for communication with citizens. Accordingly, the Project Team, in close cooperation with the representatives of ACBs that work on prevention and repression of corruption APs will prepare set of documents related to the position and functioning of focal points regarding their work with the citizens.

The TL and SNKE who will conduct series of consultations with the respective ACBs in order to identify their needs and expectations, as well as the provisions of ACSs and APS and legislature at respective levels that can influence defining position and obligations of the focal points. On the basis of these findings, they will prepare a draft version of the Procedures for work of the AC focal points in the public institutions and services.

This draft version of the Procedures for work of the AC focal points with citizens will be presented at the nation-wide workshop on that issue in the Task 1.7.4 and the feedback from the participants will be used for the preparation of the final version of the Procedures.

- Task 1.7.3 Recommendations for establishment, work and coordination of citizens AC reporting system

Establishment of the focal points for the anticorruption network in the institutions is not enough for its proper functioning without defining the competencies, obligations and procedures for their work, especially for the regular two-way communication with the ACB at respective level. Therefore, the Project Team, in close cooperation with the representatives of ACBs that work on implementation and monitoring of implementation of ACSs and APs will prepare set of documents related to the position and functioning of focal points.





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The TL and SNKE who will conduct series of consultations with the respective ACBs in order to identify their needs and expectations, as well as the provisions of ACSs and APS and legislature at respective levels that can influence defining position and obligations of the focal points. Particular attention in the work in this Task will be paid to the whistle-blowers protection in BiH, legislature and practice in this scope and the ways to improve the situation in this scope.

On the basis of these findings, they will prepare a draft version of the Procedures for work of the AC focal points in the public institutions and services, which will be presented at the nation-wide workshop on that issue in the Task 1.7.4 and the feedback from the participants will be used for the preparation of the final version of the Procedures.

### Activity 1.8 Consolidation, harmonization and streamlining of anticorruption legal framework at all levels

- Task 1.8.2 Assessment of anticorruption legal framework at all levels that is critical to personal and institutional integrity

Second step in consolidation, harmonization and streamlining of BiH AC legislature is identification of all relevant laws that regulate personal and institutional, as well as other important AC laws at all levels in BiH. For that purpose, the Project team will identify and analyse previous relevant assessments and analysis done by international organizations, academia and CSOs and to build upon them, both in the sense of identification additional of legislature and on findings of harmonization with the international standards.

The Project Team will prepare a list of the laws from all level in BiH that regulate prevention and fight against corruption, particularly the ones that regulate personal and institutional integrity and, after the identification of the legislature, checking for compliance with the international standards will be conducted, using the checklist from the activity 1.8.1, looking for presence and quality of provisions that regulate these standards. This activity will be conducted in close cooperation and assistance of ACBs and ministries of justice at all levels due to the high number of laws that has to identified and because of the need to transfer expertise in this scope to the stakeholders for their future activities of this kind, which will increase sustainability of the results of this Project.

During this analysis, another aspect of harmonization of the laws will be checked – whether laws that regulate the same scope are consistent among themselves at all levels of governance as well as if there are loopholes that shortcomings that need to be streamlined.

This analysis will result with the as clear and precise as possible identification of:







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- Lack of harmonization of BiH AC laws at all levels with the international standards
- Lack of harmonization of different level AC laws that regulate same scope among themselves
- Existence of loopholes and shortcomings that influence efficient fight against corruption.

### Activity 3.5 Preparation and launch awareness-raising campaign targeting citizens to counter corruption and establishment of AC “Good Practice Award”

- Task 3.5.2 Design of criteria and procedures for “Good Practice Award” for promotion of best AC practices

Because of previously explained challenge in the implementation of activities related to functioning of already established Commission and agreed procedures and criteria for selection of “*Good Practice Award*”, the Project Team in close cooperation with APIK and the Delegation of EU to BiH will work on finding alternative ways for for implementation. Since the procedures and criteria are well defined and accepted by all members of the WG, the only issue which needs to be solved is how to form a Commission which will be enough representative in the situation when the CSOs quitted previously accepted participation in it.

One of the solutions on which the Project Team is working is to extend and widen already existing award of APIK for the best anticorruption drawing of children with inclusion of best anticorruption essays and ideas of the students. Complete concept, criteria and procedures are adjusted to this idea and discussed with APIK and written proposal is sent to APIK to review it and give its opinion.

### **Issues requiring attention**

Every project is based on certain assumptions and faces risks (identified in the TO and updated in the IP) during the implementation and they need to be reviewed and updated constantly in the implementation of the Project. In this regard, the following issues requires attention in the forthcoming period:

- Implementation of activities related to the “Good practice award” will need attention of the Project Team since it is the first serious challenge in the implementation of the Project that the Project Team was not able to solve by itself.
- Although there are some improvements in the political will for the fight against corruption at some levels of government, such as significant efforts of Canton Sarajevo, certain improvements in Zenica - Doboje Canton and announcement from the Una – Sana



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Canton that they will accept the model of ACBs of Canton Sarajevo, there is a need for further increase in the political will.

- BiH ACS and AP 2020-2024 will have significant importance for the future fight against corruption in the country, its preparation is in the final stage and, once when finished, it will need support from the international community in scope of adoption and engaged implementation.
- Level of acceptance of the technical assistance is influenced by the tendency of some of the beneficiaries to be more interested for implementation of their obligations from ACSs and APs by outsource (such as this Project or CSO projects) than for receiving technical assistance that will help them in implementation of that activities by themselves.

The PT will be strongly dedicated to risk management and identified risks will be followed permanently through our Risk Management Plan, dealing with project risks and to continuously identify, analyse, monitor and control potential risks, including preparation and identification of responses on risks.